

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE NEW SHAH OF PERSIA?

And have anywhere from 60 to 1700 WIVES?
And sit on a throne costing \$10,000,000?

Ruler of Persia Appears to Have an Easy Job, Without Much Red Tape to Hamper Him---New Shah a Man of Force and of a Rather Democratic Turn of Mind.

HOW would you like to be the Shah of Persia? Ali Mohammed Mirza, the new Shah, who has just succeeded his father, the late Muzaffar-ed-Din, although but thirty-four years old, has fallen heir to many opportunities, among which are the following:

He may have from 60 to 1,700 wives. He may sit on the famous peacock throne, fashioned with jewels after the showy tail of the bird, at a cost of \$10,000,000.

He may fondle the "terrestrial globe," made of pure gold, with 61,000 precious stones, used to indicate the conformation of land and sea. His total jewel collection is worth \$30,000,000.

He may choose his meals from fifty or sixty dishes, and decide on which of about thirty wines he will drink. Should he admire a man's wife and want her for himself, the husband is in duty bound to consider that a great compliment has been paid him, and proffer not only his wife but his home.

May Be "Delightfully Informal."

Despite all this luxury and splendor, his life may be as informal and unofficial as he chooses. In this respect he differs from the rulers of other countries.

But there is some "red tape" necessary, even for the Shah, especially regarding his cuisine.

The imperial kitchen is under control of a prince of the blood, who is answerable for it with his head that no accident happen. Every dish is sealed before it leaves the kitchen, and the seals are broken only under the Shah's own eyes.

In accordance with court etiquette, the Shah eats alone, sitting cross-legged on a divan. A table of food high is then placed in front of him.

New Shah Man of Force.

The new Shah, whose father broke the accepted rule of succession by choosing him as valiah, or crown prince, although he was not the offspring of a Kajar princess, is said to have a forceful character. He had English and French tutors, is quite Occidental in his tastes and ambitions. He has the amiable traits of his father, but is said to resemble strongly his grandfather, Nasr-ed-Din, who was assassinated May 1, 1896, in the Mosque of Abdul Azim, near Teheran.

While governor of Azerbaijan, Ali

Mohammed Mirza showed strong sporting proclivities. He is particularly fond of motor racing and hunting.

When the new Shah arrived at Teheran in the middle of last December to assume the regency in view of his father's critical condition, he manifested much resentment at reports that had been widely spread crediting him with being a reactionary. He indignantly denied that he was opposed to the national parliament or the granting of a constitution. He declared that he always had been and always would be in favor of reforms.

Opposed By New Assembly.

On December 25, however, he came into conflict with the new assembly by proposing a revision of the constitution as drawn, so as to provide for a senate, this upper house to be composed of an overwhelming majority of government and royal officials. As this would have given the ruler absolute control of legislation, the proposal was received with intense indignation by the deputies and the people at large. On January 1, however, a compromise was reached and the revised constitution agreed to. This gave the assembly control of all financial matters, including local and foreign loans and commercial treaties, and the formation of companies at home or abroad for the construction of railroads and other public works, but matters pertaining to the administration of the provinces may merely be discussed by the assembly. The assembly can only be dissolved with the consent of the ministers and two-thirds of the senate. The senate is composed of thirty elected and thirty appointed members.

His High-Sounding Titles.

Among the magnificent titles that as ruler of Persia he will assume are Shah-in-Shah, meaning king of kings, which is an inheritance from an antiquity older than the Old Testament; Zil Allah, shadow of God; the Kibish Alum center of the world; the Exalted One, exalted as the planet Saturn; the Well of Knowledge, the king whose standard is the sun, and whose splendor is that of the firmament.

A French tutor gave the Shah an insight into European politics. He speaks French fluently, and has some knowledge of English. Following the usual custom, as heir-apparent, he entered the army and passed through

all the grades from lieutenant to field marshal. During the late Shah's absence in Europe, Mohammed Ali Mirza acted as regent, and made a favorable impression.

The new Shah is believed to look upon European intrigues from neutral grounds. Should he show a desire to throw off European shackles he will doubtless have the support of the newly created Persian parliament, as the speeches of deputies indicate a strong leaning toward terminating outside influences. Such developments, it is thought, would be the best antidote for European rivalries.

Persia, by the latest semi-official estimates, has an area of 625,000 square miles, and a population of about 2,500,000, of whom only about 1,200 are Europeans. Muzaffar-ed-Din was the fifth ruler of the dynasty of the Kajars, which took possession of the crown after a civil war extending from 1779 to 1794.

In August, last, as the result of long continued agitation in Persia and many disturbances of a serious nature, Muzaffar-ed-Din granted a constitution, with a national assembly and other reforms. This assembly composed of princes of

study of the subject for himself. His ability to tell a valuable painting and to judge of its value has now become so trained that he is capable of deciding in a very few minutes whether he will buy it or not. If the painting is worthy of appearing in his rare collection, it appeals to his sense of

ALI MOHAMMED MIRZA, New Shah of Persia, Seated Upon His \$10,000,000 Peacock Throne.

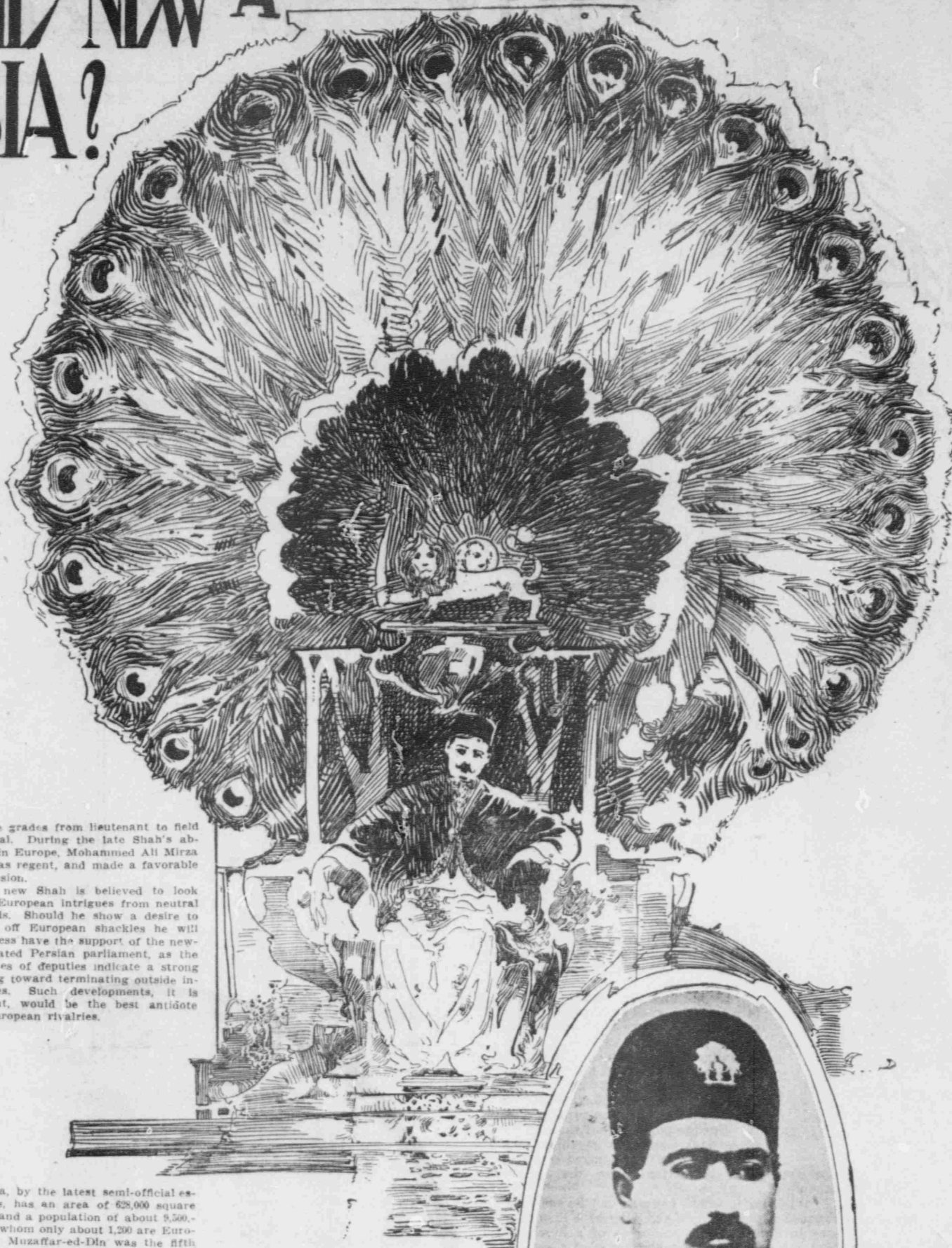
the blood, clergy, chief of the reigning dynasty, Kajah, high dignitaries, and personages, merchants and representatives of corporations. The assembly meets at Teheran, and it is provided

artistic beauty and value very quickly. Some of the paintings in Senator Clark's collection are almost priceless. Commercialism, he avers, does not enter into the question with him. He does not make known how much he paid for any of his paintings. It is not because of their money value, but because of their artistic value that he bought them, and he does not care to discuss them at all from the standpoint of dollars and cents. He will never part with any of the pictures which he has chosen, so that no amount of money, even although it were many times the price paid, would tempt him to dispose of any of his art treasures.

Senator Clark is much pleased to know that the people of Washington are appreciating and enjoying his pictures which are on exhibition in the Corcoran Art Gallery. Fourteen of the paintings of this loan collection have, during the past week been on exhibition at the Union League Club, in New York City, and have just been returned. With them come the three new paintings which reached New York only a little over a week ago and which were also at the Union League. Washingtonians may now have the opportunity of seeing these valuable old masterpieces.

Including the three new pictures, the loan collection at the Corcoran Art Gallery now contains a total of seventy-eight paintings. The larger part of Senator Clark's paintings are in New York, and when his handsome new home on Fifth avenue is completed the loan collection will be removed from the walls of the Corcoran Art Gallery. This will not occur, however, for a year or more, so that there will be plenty of opportunity to visit and examine carefully these works from the brushes of the world's greatest artists before they leave Washington.

Paintings of women figure very largely in the Senator's collection, and these are not only among the most beautiful, but also among the most valuable. The wonderful Portrait of a Woman, by Rembrandt, is the choice gem of the entire collection. The colors and the exquisitely fine details in this picture are as fine today as they were when the picture was first painted. You look at the face and feel every moment as if the woman must speak to you. You know that she has something to say, and that she cannot keep it herself any longer, and yet she has kept it for centuries.



that it shall make civil and constitutional laws. The new national assembly was officially opened in October. It is composed of two bodies, the upper house having sixty members, the lower house 156.

General Morteza's Views.

The present Persian minister to the United States, General Morteza Khan, when interviewed at the Persian legation, said that the present Shah is very liberal-minded and that he will no doubt do much to help his country to progress.

"It would be a discourtesy on the part of the Shah," said General Morteza Khan, "not to sign an act which had been passed by the two houses of the national assembly. One-half of the upper house is appointed by the Shah. The lower is elected entirely by the people."

"The assembly has not been in existence long enough as yet," he continued, "to bring about any important legislative actions."

Persia Much Favored.

A chance to have some voice in the government ought to give the people of Persia an opportunity to work out the agricultural and commercial success that nature seems to have designed for that country. Persia is favored in many ways, but the system of government has put an end to public improvements, and land that could be made very fertile by irrigation has been permitted to go to waste merely because canals have been neglected.

These canals for irrigating the country are monuments to the architectural skill and industry of the ancient Persians. Only a few years ago a foremost English engineer said that they could be put in working order again for only a small outlay.

Question of Irrigation.

One of the first questions to come up in the new national assembly will be that of irrigation.

Anything that will add to the prosperity of Persia will be a boon to the impoverished country. The late Shah was very liberal, and yet he did not try to remove any of the burden of debt which his country was bearing. Indeed, he added considerably to this burden by his love of display. He made three trips to Europe, and on each occasion he took with him great and splendidly costumed suites, and bought many new jewels to add to his already fabulous collection.

Persia is very rich in natural products, and with proper encouragement and development should become a wealthy country. Despite the fact that the people have been granted a representative assembly, the Shah is still the real ruler. He has the power to make or to break laws, and the people cannot pass a law unless he chooses to have it passed and to sign it.

Mohammed Ali Mirza will be enthroned on February 2, under the title of Mohammed Sani. One of his first acts, it is said, will be to aid in the promotion of the proposed national bank, which plan so far, has been unsuccessful.

The late Shah's third son, Isbrat, who recently raised a force of 10,000 men in Luristan, in the hope of capturing the throne, has no prospect of success.

VASE 3,000 YEARS OLD.

W. D. Jamison, of this city, has a vase that was dug up in the grading of a railroad, two miles from the seashore, in Florida. It was seven feet below the surface, and was imbedded in shells and sand. Hugo Wagner, a German antiquarian, declares that the vase is 3,000 years old, and that it is of Greek or Phoenician origin, and was used upon festival occasions.

How this vase became lost in Florida is a mystery. It may be that a Phoenician ship, a thousand or more years ago, sailed to the Florida coast and lost it there—Kansas City Star.

Senator Clark's New Pictures Are Treasures of Art

SENATOR CLARK of Montana is a busy man—one of the busiest men in the United States Senate—but he is never too busy to pause for a few minutes to talk about his magnificent collection of paintings, to which he has just added three costly ones by old masters.

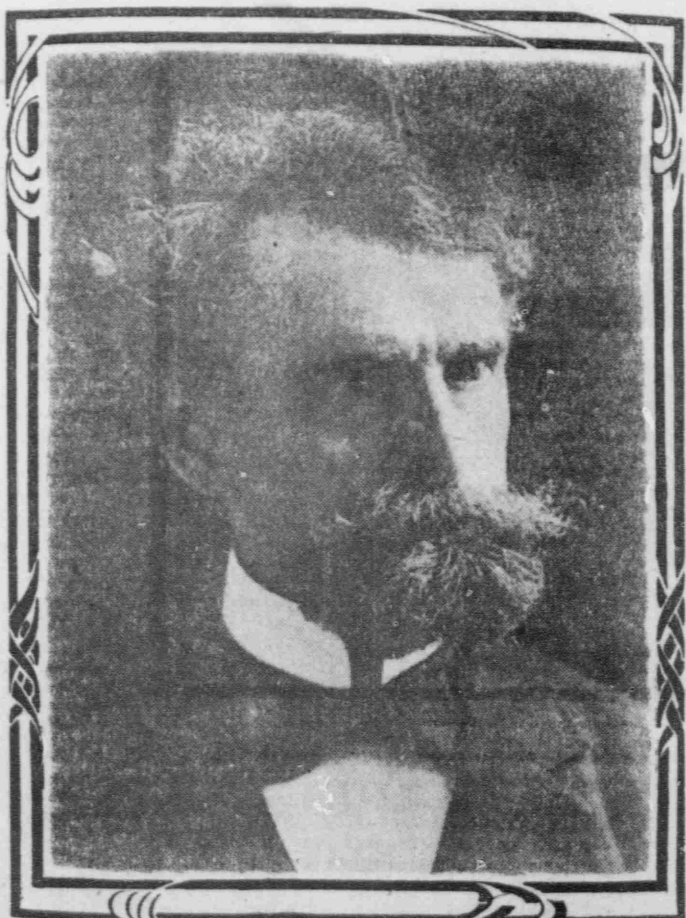
He is at his office desk a little after 9 o'clock every morning, and he often remains there until after 6 o'clock in the evening. During this time he does not care to be interrupted by any outside business. The new paintings just added to the Senator's art collection only lately arrived in this country, having been purchased in Europe the past summer. One of these is a Bathing Scene by Titian, the famous Venetian painter of the sixteenth century. This picture is quite large, larger than the Pergino, the second of the group. The title of the painting by Pergino is "Saint and Two Angels."

The third is a Van Dyck, and is a picture of a mother and child. This is said to be an exceedingly fine painting.

It is not quite as old as the other two, Van Dyck having belonged to the Flemish school of the seventeenth century. Next to Rubens, Van Dyck was the most famous portrait painter of this school.

Senator Clark says he has an intuitive love for beautiful paintings. He began to study the great paintings of the world on the occasion of his first trip to Europe twenty-seven years ago. He spent much of his time in visiting the famous art galleries and private collections of the old world. But he was not in a hurry to buy what was then offered for sale. It was not until after ten years of careful study, he claims, that he began the collection which is now so large and so choice.

The opinions of critics and of other people did not influence him in his selections, although, of course, he listened to what others had to say about this and that painting. Senator Clark was not willing to trust his own judgment in the purchase of valuable paintings until he had made a careful



SENATOR W. A. CLARK.



GLIMPSES OF HAREM LIFE, The Shah and Some of His Wives.